

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

The cross sectional shape of the orifice in a vertical direction (longitudinal direction of the tubular reaction vessel) is not particularly limited. The orifice in cross section may ~~be triangle~~ be a triangle as illustrated in Fig. 1, rectangle (oblong) as illustrated in Fig. 2, polygon (not shown), or a top-curved protrusion (not shown).